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SEASONABLE

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REFLECTIONS

On the present

State of Affairs;

With some Remarks on

A PAMPHLET,

ENTITLED,

“ *An ENQUIRY into the CONDUCT*
“ *of a late RIGHT HONOURABLE*
“ *COMMONER.*” [Wm Pitt]

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. COOKE, in *Pater-noster-Row*,

MDCCLXVI.

REFLECTIONS

State of Affairs

A PAMPHLET



LONDON

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MDCCLXXV

SEASONABLE

REFLECTIONS,

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TO a person who considers every
thing in an impartial manner,
and who looks upon every thing
which he sees and hears in the same
light in which they are represented
by

by the political writers of the times ; that is, as the sentiments of the community in general ; or at least that part of it who have any regard to the interests and prosperity of their country ; I say, to such a one, the conduct of the good people of *England* must appear very strange and inconsistent. I shall endeavour to make good this assertion by a few remarks on their conduct with regard to the *late celebrated* WILLIAM PITT, Esq; now, according to some, the *despicable* EARL OF CHATHAM*.

THOUGH it will be needless to enumerate here the many eminent services this MAN (I shall write in a very plain manner) has done for *Great Britain,*

* Vide An Enquiry into the Conduct of a late Right Honourable Commoner.

tain, as they are too recent to be *quite* forgotten, though, perhaps, too numerous to be *all* remembered ; yet it may not, however, be amiss to draw a short historical sketch of his life and administration for a few years past.

WE can all remember a time when the armies of Great Britain were routed on every side, their fortresses taken and destroyed, their navy useless and unactive, and their coast insulted by a daring and victorious enemy ; its counsellors distracted and divided, its inhabitants trembling and quaking, running to hide themselves from their enemies, instead of endeavouring to oppose them ; a foreign force called in to eat up its provisions, and run away with great part of its revenues without ever striking a blow, or being of any true service to the nation.

Such was the deplorable situation of these kingdoms, when he was called to the administration of public affairs by the united voice of both prince and people, and from which he raised them to the very pinnacle of national greatness: harmony and union reigned universally at home; our navy rode triumphant at sea; and victory crowned our arms, into whatever quarter of the world they were extended.

It was at this period that he quitted his employment as minister, because he was not allowed to pursue a plan which he foresaw was absolutely necessary to the interests of *Great-Britain*; and which, if executed, would not only have gone near to have put a finishing stroke to the war, but likewise, in some measure, have reimbursed

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ed the nation for the enormous expence it had been at in the prosecution of a just, but expensive war.

Spain had not only given the most flagrant proofs of her partiality to our enemy, but had likewise for a long time been making preparations for joining them against us ; and though often called upon in the most friendly manner to give a categorical answer to a very plain question, *viz.* whether those preparations were designed against us or not, had as often evaded it in such a shuffling and prevaricating manner, as manifestly shewed what we were shortly to expect. Their West-India fleet was just then expected home, in which the greatest part of their riches in that part of the world might, naturally enough, be supposed to be sent ; and that

that it was the arrival of this only which they waited for before they declared their intentions openly.

How this judicious statesman came by his information ; whether by some secret intelligence, or only through the natural sagacity of his own penetrating judgment, is not material here ; but this is certain, he seemed very well acquainted with the above circumstance, and therefore advised an immediate declaration of war, and that a fleet should be sent out to intercept them. Who does not even at first sight, see the depth and excellence of this *Manœuvre* in politics ? Happy for *England* had it then been put in execution ! But by the ignorance of some who could not see, and the villany of others who would not, this motion was unhappily over-ruled, and Mr. PITT, who knew very well that
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he alone must bear the odium of such a palpable neglect of the true interests of the nation, as having, according to the general opinion, the absolute direction of all public measures, prudently resigned his place, and the new administration soon found themselves obliged to adopt the plan they had before so blindly and wilfully rejected : but, alas ! too late to strike the important blow which he had meditated. His sovereign, truly sensible of his merit, and the eminent services he had done for his country, parted from him with regret, but suffered him not to go without bestowing on him a reward worthy the generosity of the giver. Mark now the event ! This was no sooner known, but the mouth of calumny was set open against him ; -- He was villified, insulted, ridiculed ! the epithets of
Villain,

Villain, and Scoundrel, were not thought too bad for the man, who, under God, had been the means of preserving the throats of those who uttered them from being cut by their enemies. *He was a traitor to his country ;— had meanly sold his integrity for a pension ;— Patriotism was a farce ;—and the name of the great Commoner would never more be heard of.* It is true, it was no more heard of for a time ; he, like the Roman dictator of old, retreated from the insult and abuse of an ungrateful people, and amused himself with the cultivation and improvement of a few paternal acres.

In this retreat he continued for some time, happy in the rectitude and uprightness of his intentions, without popularity, or any seeming desire of court-
ing its return: But no sooner was the
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nation, who but a few years before had treated his services in so ungrateful a manner, brought again, as it were, to the very brink of destruction, by the impolitic proceedings of a weak administration ; its colonies in danger of being wrested from it, its trade intirely at a stand, and more than half its inhabitants starving for want of employment; its liberties encroached upon in the most shameful manner ; and all, seemingly, anarchy and confusion : but this man, this *pitiful fellow*, who before was said to have sold his country for a pension, step'd forth from obscurity, and, like its guardian angel, once more snatched it from perdition, tho' in full opposition to what is generally called a court-party. Heavens ! what a turn was here in the tide of popularity ! even those who but a small time

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before

before had been the foremost to abuse him, were not now ashamed to mix amongst the croud, throw up their hats, and cry, *long live Queen † Mary !*

I am almost ashamed to proceed ! This man, whose integrity was not to be biaſſed by a penſion of 3000*l. per An.* whose abilities and wiſdom are ſuch as to have twice ſaved a nation from ruin; has, if we may believe the inhabitants thereof, or at leaſt ſome who would be
thought

† This refers to the behaviour of a nobleman, to whom the *Lady JANE GREY* had entruſted the command of her party; and who, when he found the party of *Mary* likely to be too ſtrong for that which he had taken, baſely deſerted that unfortunate lady, and was mean enough to be guilty of the action here mentioned.

thought to be the mouths of the public, at last been bought for a bauble, or fallen a dupe to the arts of a man, or set of men, whose ignorance and misconduct had brought matters into the deplorable situation we have just now mentioned. And from whence are these conclusions drawn? Would not every reasonable man, who considers the tenor and proceedings of the former part of his life, conclude, that it must be from a long series of the most diabolical actions, that the public voice could thus be turned against him? Can any sensible person imagine, that the mere *ipse dixit* of a few discontented persons, whose ignorance of the true interests of their country, or whose restless dispositions are such as to render it absolutely necessary to exclude them from any share in the administration,

tion, should have weight enough to give foundation to such illiberal suppositions? And yet that this is really the case, I have little occasion to prove, as I believe it will be very difficult to produce any other substantial grounds for such a belief. However, that I may not leave any room for well-meaning persons to think there are, I will consider, in the most impartial manner, every shadow of a reason that can be brought to support it.

The most weighty seems to be, that by accepting of a peerage, he has vacated his seat in the House of Commons, and by that means deprived himself of every opportunity of serving his country. Whether the former part of this be true or not, I must confess, is of too singular and difficult a nature for me

me to determine with certainty ; but this I am very clear in, that the latter does not necessarily follow from thence ; and therefore, whether it be true or not, is to little purpose ; for I apprehend those (pretendedly) strenuous friends to their country will not deny, that even a bad ministry has, generally speaking, much more weight with a H—— of C——, than any one of their own members who is out of it ; and if so, a good ministry, by making use of the same arts, may have much more. Besides, the influence of a ministry is generally greatest over that part of the C——s who are the least concerned for the true interests of their country ; or in other words, that have the greatest regard for their own ; and that part of it who are really actuated by a spirit of patriotism, will never require

quire Mr. PITT's honesty or eloquence to influence them. Hence, therefore, I think it plainly follows, that he may be of more service, even in that respect, out of the House of Commons and in the ministry, than out of the ministry and in the House of Commons ; and surely he was in the right to chuse that department where he could be of most use ; since if we may judge from appearances (a thing very common with some) to fill both at a time was incompatible.

Moreover, from whom are we to fear an encroachment on our liberties, or the suggestion of wrong measures, but from a weak or wicked ministry ? Now I have sufficiently proved that LORD CHATHAM has not hitherto been a weak or a wicked minister ;
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and I presume likewise, have brought much better arguments to prove that he will not hereafter be such, than any person can do to prove the contrary : that he is at the head of the ministry, and has likewise the nomination of all the rest, needs not my confirmation ; it is brought as a weighty charge against him by his enemies.

The next thing alledged against him is of a very different cast,—he is not a r——e, but a f——l, and fallen a dupe to the arts of a certain unpopular nobleman. If this be really true, we have yet many things to say in his favour, as *Humanum est errare* ; or if you like it better ; *Nemo omnibus horis sapit* ; either of which might be a sufficient excuse for mere man. Methinks too, such a consideration might rather excite

cite our pity than our contempt : The *man* has certainly been of great use to his country, and if age or infirmities should have weakened those intellects, which have so often, and so successfully, been exerted in our service, ought not every honest man, at least, to sit down, and bemoan his misfortune, rather than insult him with ridicule ? But we seem not to be driven so low as to accept of excuses ; we have yet presumptive arguments in our favour that this is not the case ; and are inclined to think that more than the accuser can boast of. Is it not strange, that so honest, so upright, and so wise a man as Lord *Cambden*, should either join in the deception of his friend, or be so blind as not to see and avoid it himself, if he had not kindness enough for his
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superannuated patron to warn, and direct him from it?

But suppose we give up even all they can desire, and acknowledge all that he is accused of; that he has either wilfully, or through mistake, given up all means, and opportunity of serving his country, and even taken a pension and peerage along with him into the bargain: wherein, pray, is the injustice? Or of what have we so much cause to complain? Consider candidly—weigh the matter impartially. Has not the services which his country has received at his hands been great and invaluable? the charge itself manifestly implies it; and we need not surely a stronger proof thereof than the universal assent of his enemies. Is not then the labourer worthy of his
D hire?

hire? Or will any one be so hardy to say that the reward exceeds the benefits received? If not, why then is he to be spurned at, and reviled for accepting the just reward of his services; whilst others, whose names we never heard of, but on the occasion, are every day receiving the same honours, and enjoying the same emoluments, without being even remarked upon for so doing? What ingratitude and contradiction is here!

As to the former part of the charge, that of giving up all opportunity of serving his country, it seems to me even still more unreasonable. Is the man who has long and successfully served his country, for that reason only, to be chained down to it, like a slave to the galleys, for ever after? would it not be more just and reasonable

able in us to be thankful for what we have already received, than to insult and abuse him because he at length chuses to sit down, and enjoy the fruits of his labours in his old age? surely yes. But we do not, by our behaviour, seem to think that he has even a right to enjoy those benefits which he has been a means of procuring for the kingdom in general. Let any unprejudiced person consider these things, and then judge between him and his vile calumniators, who has the most reason to complain, even supposing all that they can alledge against him to be true.

But at present the case seems to be otherwise. He is, according to their own confession, at the head of the ministry; and though his bodily in-

firmities would not permit him to accept of a place of business, without manifest risk of neglecting it, he has, nevertheless, chosen a place of the greatest trust; having it always in his power to refuse the seals to any measure which he may think contrary to the interest of his country. It may likewise be remembered, that he is at the head of a ministry of his own choosing, and who, to a man, have the greatest regard for his opinion and council. We have likewise, as I have observed above, yet, all the reason imaginable to believe that he is still the same honest, steady and able patriot we have hitherto always found him: till we have some more solid foundation for a contrary supposition, let us, for our own reputation, hold our peace, and not give our neighbours just reason

reason to charge us, not only with ingratitude, but injustice likewise.

Though what I have already said may be sufficient to convince every considerate man of the glaring inconsistency of those, who so basely traduce the name of an honest, and a worthy person; yet as a gigantic champion has lately appeared on the other side of the question, under the name and title of AN ENQUIRY, &c. he may perhaps be affronted if I should conclude without taking some notice of the many marvelous acts which he hath done,

In the first chapter then, of *Stowe's Chronicle*, we read of the *excessive popularity and compliancy of a BACON*; *his corrupting of judges, and attacking him-*

himself to a FAVOURITE: We are then conveyed by a very easy transition to Mr. PULTNEY, and told that he was the great commoner of his time; something is here likewise said of a favourite; and we are then told that he was made Earl of Bath, &c. &c. Some person may perhaps ask, to what all this may tend? I answer, was the querist as quick sighted as our hero seems to be, he would easily see, that because Lord CHATHAM has been as popular as either of those, it must necessarily follow, that he will sometime or other be equally mean and contemptible. If he cannot yet see the necessity of this conclusion, I cannot help it; it is nevertheless the conclusion which is there drawn.

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We are next told, in order to set forth his inconsistencies with himself, that he declaimed with great virulence against Sir ROBERT WALPOLE, and the PELHAMS, and afterwards *poured forth the most lavish encomiums on the former, and came to a compromise with the latter*; that is, was in the same ministry with his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE. Mark, now, the sophistry of this! Every one will allow, that a person who speaks in a public assembly, such as our House of Commons is, must speak according as the exigency of the times, and affairs may require; and it is no hard matter for a person who has an inclination to quibble and prevaricate, to pick out of such a person's speeches, made at very distant times, and on very different,

rent occasions, such parts as may, when put together, without those circumstances of time and occasion, form a strong contradiction to each other : as for example ; because *Sir Robert Walpole* was sometimes, or even in general, the proposer of iniquitous measures, will any one say, that he was never the proposer of a good one ? or that Mr. PITT was, in order to preserve his consistency, obliged to conform to the one, or oppose the other ? Surely no ! and we see the use which this wretched prevaricator has here made of it !

The next instance which is brought of his inconsistency with himself, is his conduct with regard to the late war in *Germany*. Here, says our author, before he got into the ministry,

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He thundered against Hanover, the very name of which he was for expunging out of the dictionary; it was called a mill-stone about the neck of Great-Britain, and stiled the bane of his country. But, says he a little further on, having obtained his point, that is, to be absolute minister, and therefore of course at full liberty to carry on the war upon whatever system he pleased; and though a neutrality was secured for Hanover, yet he entered into all the predilections of his sovereign, broke the neutrality in Germany, and notwithstanding his many furious and energetic declarations against the continent, the very sounds of which were tingling in our ears, plunged us deeper into the German war, than any of his predecessors; sent over more men, and more money than any other minister ever dared; and at an expence of above

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eighty

eighty millions, conquered America in Germany.

Here again is another shameful instance of prevarication with regard to time; but happily the occasion being mentioned, I flatter myself, I shall be able to set this matter in such a light, as to make every well wisher to truth and innocence heartily despise the man (if such he can be called) who could so wilfully, and shamefully prostitute his pen to traduce the father, and saviour of his country.

I have in the proceeding pages remarked what a deplorable situation these nations were in when Mr. PITT was called to the administration of public affairs. It was at this time that
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he inveighed so bitterly against sending men and money into Germany; and was he not then very much in the right? will any deny it to be a very pernicious measure to send our own forces into Germany, at the same time we were obliged to hire others to defend our own coasts? No, you'll say, no one disputes the truth of this; but was he right afterwards in altering his plan, and adopting the very system he had but a little while before, so vehemently exclaimed against? I answer, yes; and my reasons for this reply follow:

Mr. PITT was made Secretary of State;—I need not say any thing of the success of his administration, or of the sudden and surprising turn in the state of the national affairs; they are all very well remembered by every one. In-

Instead of being threatened with an invasion, we were actually the invaders: from being in a condition, scarcely to be called acting on the defensive, we became the offensive party: our troops being, therefore, no longer of service at home, it was but prudent to employ them to the best advantage in the national cause. It had always been a ruling maxim with the *French*, that they were our masters in *Germany*, and therefore were always ready to draw us into that field. This sagacious minister well knew their foible here; and therefore as soon as they could be spared with safety at home, sent into *Germany* a sufficient number of forces to draw their attention, and persuaded them that we had at length fallen into their trap. They, ever eager to embrace such an opportunity, employed the whole

whole of their force and attention that way; thinking, by crushing our little army with a superior force, to draw still more and more our thoughts and attention that way, to the entire neglect of our Colonies. But, unhappily for them; they fell into the very snare they had thought to have drawn us into. Not only their navy was neglected, but even their own coasts left unguarded; so that a very inconsiderable number of our forces landed, ravaged their country, burnt their shipping in their harbours, and destroyed their forts: While our continental connections were but a secondary consideration; our principal attention being constantly directed to the improvement of our navy; whereby we had it at all times in our power to transport what number of forces we had occasion for to *America*. But the
French,

French, by paying too much attention to their favourite scheme, utterly neglected the improvement of their navy; and when the force which they had at first employed in that part of the world was weakened by continual skirmishes, and the common chance of war, they became an easy conquest to the British arms.

These are all facts, which are known to every one; here are no doubtful assertions, the truth of which depend alone on the veracity of the relator; no cabinet councils, pretendedly, divulged, which few can contradict, and which every considerate person may easily know to be merely the suppositions of a political scribler, notwithstanding the insinuations which some restless disappointed persons of rank, whose cause he may
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be writing in support of, may give him the liberty to throw out to the contrary. Where then is the inconsistency or error in Mr. PITT's conduct? But to such pitiful shifts and subterfuges are his enemies driven, to find some colour for their infamous aspersions.

From misrepresentations, he goes on to absolute falsehoods; and declares the tax that was laid upon porter, to be done at his *express injuncture*, though every one knows it to be proposed by another hand. He is next represented as the sole instrument of bringing a certain unpopular nobleman into power; though the author acknowledges, that nobleman had before the *possession of the ear*. 'Tis strange he should then need Mr. PITT's interest to bring him into power. But I am weary of drudging

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ing through such a heap of misrepresentations, falsehoods, and the most illiberal reflections. I shall therefore omit what follows, till we come to what he calls the *last negociation*; and from which the whole tenor and design of this pamphlet will appear.

Here, the hero of the piece expressly appears to be E—T—; and the whole mistake in politics seems to be Mr. PITT's being applied to before his L——p, and his expressly refusing to admit some of his L-----p's friends into the ministry on the same footing with himself, or in preference to some of the late ministry, of whose abilities and integrity Mr. PITT was thoroughly convinced. In plain *English*, there must be a total remove, right or wrong, be those who are in worthy or unworthy

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thy ; the most illiberal reflections are here again dealt about amongst the new ministry with unbounded liberality ; after which follows a long historical account of Cardinal MAZARINE, taken from a *French* author. But I would not be thought to insinuate that this insignificant transcript, so entirely foreign to the subject, was introduced by his L——p : no, no ; I am charitable enough to believe that it was tacked to by the bookseller, to make six-penny-worth more of his pamphlet. Then follow twenty pages of the most stupid panygeric on his L——p, and scurrilous abuse of Lord CHATHAM and his friends, that ever was tacked together in one publication ; but whether by the one or the other, I cannot pretend to say ; but if they are really the work of the latter, he has endeavoured

voured to make his L—p ample amends, for bestowing on him the honour of being his publisher. His L——p is here represented as the sole instrument and support of all the late commoner's great popularity ; it was upon his shoulders that he stood firm amidst the tide of popular applause ! it was his wisdom and deep penetration that saved him in numberless hair-breadth scapes from splitting on the rocks of public contempt ! his steady adherence to the true interests of his country, that kept him from swerving from his integrity !——In short, it was his L——p who did every thing that has been done, and still sat down tamely, and let the great commoner run away with the whole of the public applause ! What wonderful condescension ! What passive obedience was here !

here ! It is really very surprising how his L—p's honour came to be so very touchy now ! But in all this wonderful *Enquiry* we meet not with one word of his L——p's afterwards offering to accept a place in the new ministry, and of his being told he was then too late in his application. I suppose owing to the *Enquiry* being at an end before we come to that place.

I thought I should now have got through this heap of dirt and defamation, without meeting with any thing deserving a remark : But indignation will not suffer me to pass over in silence the following wilful and abominable misrepresentation of facts. I shall transcribe the paragraph which contains it.

“ I cannot (says he) conclude without the warmest thanks, I think I

“ may say in the name of every Eng-
 “ *lishman*, to the steady, discerning,
 “ and patriotic members of the com-
 “ mon-council of the city of *London* ;
 “ who, when *repeated* attempts were
 “ made to surprise them into an ad-
 “ dress, upon an appointment of men,
 “ and an adoption of measures (what
 “ measures?) equally obnoxious and in-
 “ jurious to the nation, refused with a
 “ firmness that does the greatest honour
 “ to their public spirit ; and told the
 “ person applying, *that the commoner,*
 “ &c.” Would not any person now, on
 reading the above paragraph, naturally
 imagine that not only an application,
 but applications had been made to the
 common-council of the city of London
 for such an address ; and that the reply
 there specified was made by that respec-
 able body ? Be it known then, that
 such

such application was never made to the common-council; and that the whole of this affair is as follows :

Mr. D——, on being informed of the change in the ministry, went to *Guildhall*, where the common-council were then sitting, and desired to speak with Mr. F——n; and then imparted to him the above circumstance, viz. that Mr. PITT was made lord *Privy Seal* and *Earl* of CHATHAM, &c. Mr. F——N then asked Mr. D——y if he came as from himself, or from Mr. PITT; and was answered that he came entirely of his own accord. Because replied the former, if it had been otherwise, you might have told him, &c. and then made use of some such words as the author has there introduced. This is the whole of the affair,

affair, nor was any other application made. Comments upon such bare-faced misrepresentations of matters of fact are needless; let therefore the impartial public judge what credit can be given to the bare assertions of such a writer. It may not however be unnecessary to observe how artfully he makes use of the names of Mr. D——, and Mr. F——N, to give an apparent confirmation to what he has just been advancing; after which he falls into his old strain, as if what past between those Gentlemen had been while the question was debating before the members of that court.

In these remarks the reader will observe, that I have confined myself solely to the argumentative part of this
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Herculean adversary : I have taken no notice of the glaring absurdities in his sense and language, which abound throughout the whole piece; an instance or two, however, may not be amiss to confirm my assertion. I should be very glad to see this *important* author, make sense of his pitiful pun upon *Enoch's* translation; or point out the wit of Mr. *F---n's* spirited reply, as he is pleased to call it; and which he would willingly palm upon the members of the Common Council of the city of *London*, on page 69 and 70. But above all, I cannot pass over his poetical epilogue, as I suppose he would call it;—I must beg the reader's pardon
for

for laying before him a few lines of that inimitable performance.

Mark the spirit and energy of this line!

“ *In CHATHAM buried, WILLIAM
PITT’s no more.*”

Or the beautiful antithesis of this,

“ *And PITT and TEMPLE are no
more the same.*”

“ *Thy heart yet whispers, PITT, thou
art abas’d.*”

How beautifully expressive are the three last words of the idea they are meant to convey? They are *abased* indeed!

Again,

“ *In STEPHEN’S chapel; there thou
hadst no peer.*”

Elegant truly!

“ Un-

“Unclogg’d by one, th’ incumber’d
slave of two.”

Another beautiful antithesis indeed !

But above all, the fire and spirit of the six last lines exceed even *Homer* himself, and must be acknowledged to be inimitable.

I should be highly reprehensible were I to pass over in silence the many unmannerly insults offered to M——y itself in this scurrilous publication. For in what other light can the emphatical expression of *Favourite*, which frequently occurs, three or four times on a page, be taken? It can convey no idea of a crime in the person *favoured*, and therefore can be no reflection on his character. The *crime, predeliction,*

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or

or whatever idea you may please to convey by it, must fall upon the *favourer*, as expressing a partial regard for a person, which in himself he has no right to do, or of which the person favoured is very undeserving.

Upon the whole, we may safely say, that this pamphlet is such, as to make every well-wisher to his country, glad that the personage whose hand is so very conspicuous in several parts of it, is not in the present ministry. The effects of his restless, turbulent disposition, has already been but too much felt by *Great Britain* for some years past; and the many illiberal reflections with which this *Enquiry*, as it is called, abounds, manifestly convince us that the same spirit still remains. Had this account been delivered

delivered with temper, and the many scurrilous invectives which are interspersed throughout the whole performance left out ; but more especially those tack'd to the end of it, and hitched into a few wretched rhimes, the whole might have been comprized in a few pages, and perhaps have then done the execution intended by it: but alas ! the serpent, by darting its sting with too much fury, unfortunately wounds itself, and must inevitably die of its own venom.

F I N I S.